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**1989/06/03**

TEXT OF TELEGRAM 89BEIJIN015388 UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 01 BEIJIN 15388 01 OF 02 030526Z  
ACTION EAP-00

|      |         |         |         |         |        |         |        |
|------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------|---------|--------|
| INFO | LOG-00  | ADS-00  | INR-07  | EUR-00  | SS-00  | CIAE-00 | EB-00  |
|      | H-01    | NSCE-00 | NSAE-00 | COME-00 | SSO-00 | HA-09   | L-03   |
|      | TRSE-00 | PM-10   | AIT-02  | PA-01   | OMB-01 | STR-18  | SIL-01 |
|      | INRE-00 | ANAE-00 | USIE-00 | SP-02   | SNP-01 | PRS-01  | P-02   |
|      | T-01    | /060 W  |         |         |        |         |        |

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O 030515Z JUN 89 ZFP4  
FM AMEMBASSY BEIJING  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 0041  
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
AMEMBASSY SEOUL  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE  
AIT TAIPEI IMMEDIATE  
USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE  
AMCONSUL GUANGZHOU IMMEDIATE  
AMCONSUL SHANGHAI IMMEDIATE  
AMCONSUL SHENYANG IMMEDIATE  
DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
AMCONSUL CHENGDU POUCH)

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BEIJING 15388

NIACT IMMEDIATE FOR CHINA WATCH ONLY

NSC FOR DOUG PAAL  
CINCPAC FOR FPA

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: PGOV, PHUM, SOCI, CH  
SUBJECT: SITREP NO. 27: MARTIAL LAW WITH CHINESE  
- CHARACTERISTICS

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PAGE 02 BEIJIN 15388 01 OF 02 030526Z

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. THE PEOPLE OF BEIJING AWOKE ON SATURDAY, JUNE 3,  
TO WITNESS AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT: THOUSANDS OF YOUNG  
SOLDIERS, BEDRAGGLED, BEFUDDLED AND SOME EVEN WEEPING,  
WANDERING THROUGH THE CITY IN GROUPS RANGING FROM A  
HANDFUL TO HUNDREDS, IN AN UNORGANIZED RETREAT OUT OF  
THE CITY CENTER. FROM ABOUT 0530 TO 0800 WE WITNESSED

PAGE NO. 1

UNCLASSIFIED

THE FOLLOWING STRANGE EVENTS:

-- A BUS FULL OF ABOUT FORTY SOLDIERS SURROUNDED BY A CROWD OF SEVERAL THOUSAND ANGRY CITIZENS AT THE CORNER OF CHANGAN (THE CITY'S MAIN EAST-WEST ROAD) AND XIDAN. ON TOP OF THE BUS, STUDENTS AND OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE TOOK TURNS POSING FOR PHOTOS HOLDING A RIFLE TAKEN FROM ONE OF THE SOLDIERS AND WEARING A HELMET AND OTHER "CAPTURED" PARAPHERNALIA.

- ANOTHER BUS WITH A SIMILAR NUMBER OF SOLDIERS ABOUT TWO BLOCKS AWAY, IMMOBILIZED BY A LARGE CROWD AND BUSES PARKED ACROSS THE ROAD. SEVERAL PEOPLE IN THE CROWD SAID THAT SOLDIERS WERE ARMED WITH RIFLES AND GRENADES.

-- IN FRONT OF THE MAIN GATE OF THE ZHONGNANHAI LEADERSHIP COMPOUND, A STUDENT WAS DISPLAYING TO A CROWD OF SEVERAL HUNDRED A FLEXIBLE METAL ROD WHICH THE SPEAKER SAID WAS CARRIED BY ALL THE SOLDIERS. THE SPEAKER SAID THE ROD COULD BE USED FOR BEATING OR GARROTING PEOPLE. THIS SAME SCENE WAS REPEATED IN SEVERAL LOCATIONS AROUND THE CITY. (NOTE: THE RODS IN FACT ARE FLEXIBLE LOOPS USED TO HOLD THE SOLDIERS' CONFIDENTIAL  
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PAGE 03 BEIJIN 15388 01 OF 02 030526Z

GARRISON HATS IN SHAPE. LIKE A BELT BUCKLE, THE RODS CAN BE USED TO INFLICT INJURY. END NOTE.)

-- NEAR THE OLD OBSERVATORY ABOUT 300 SOLDIERS SITTING ON THE GROUND WERE SURROUNDED BY SEVERAL TIMES THAT MANY CITIZENS WHO STERNLY LECTURED THE SOLDIERS ON THE ERRORS OF THEIR WAYS. ELDERLY WOMEN COULD BE SEEN SCOLDING 17-YEAR-OLD SOLDIERS WHO LOOKED SHAME-FACED AT THE GROUND.

-- NEAR THE RAILWAY STATION, GROUPS OF 5-10 SOLDIERS WERE SEEN WANDERING AIMLESSLY, GAPING AT THE BIG CITY AND PROCEEDING IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION FROM THEIR COLLEAGUES ON THE PARALLEL MAIN ROAD.

-- MOST OF THE SOLDIERS WHO WERE NOT IN SOME WAY IMMOBILIZED BY CROWDS PROCEEDED OUT OF THE CITY CENTER, HEADING BACK TO THE EASTERN SUBURB OF TONGXIAN, FROM WHICH THEY HAD DEPARTED EARLIER IN THE EVENING. WE SAW TWO GROUPS OF SEVERAL HUNDRED EACH, HOWEVER, WHICH ENTERED SITES CLOSE TO THE CITY CENTER. IT WAS NOT CLEAR HOW LONG THEY WOULD STAY AT THOSE LOCATIONS.

3. COMMENT: OUR DATT HAS DESCRIBED THE ONGOING EVENTS AS "A CHINESE VERSION OF NAPOLEON'S RETREAT FROM MOSCOW." AT LEAST NAPOLEON'S TROOPS DID NOT HAVE THE

TEXT OF TELEGRAM 89BEIJIN015388 UNCLASSIFIED

HUMILIATION OF BEING LECTURED IN THEIR OWN LANGUAGE BY GRANDMOTHERLY WOMEN CALLING THEM "BAD BOYS" OR "A DISGRACE TO THE PLA." AS DATT HAS REPORTED, ONE POSSIBLE EXPLANATION OF THE "PLAN" FOR LAST NIGHT WAS THAT THE TROOPS WHO ENTERED BY FOOT WERE TO CORDON OFF TIANANMEN SQUARE WHILE THE PAP AND OTHER TROOPS WHO CAME IN BY BUS WOULD USE CLUBS AND POSSIBLY OTHER WEAPONS TO IN SOME WAY FORCE THE STUDENTS OUT OF THE

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PAGE NO. 3

UNCLASSIFIED

TEXT OF TELEGRAM 89BEIJIN015388 UNCLASSIFIED

ADP597  
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIJIN 15388 02 OF 02 030526Z  
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PAGE 02 BEIJIN 15388 02 OF 02 030526Z

SQUARE. WHATEVER THE PLAN WAS, THE RESULT WAS A COMPLETE  
DISASTER. A CITY WHICH -- WITH THE NOTABLE EXCEPTION OF  
THE CENTRAL SQUARE -- HAD BEGUN TO RETURN TO NORMAL  
IS NOW GALVANIZED AGAIN TO CONFRONT THE AUTHORITIES.  
BARRICADES HAVE BEEN RESTORED AT MANY APPROACHES TO THE  
SQUARE AND THE CENTER OF THE CITY SEEMS TO BE ONCE  
AGAIN IN THE CONTROL OF DEMONSTRATORS. CITIZENS ARE  
ANGERED BY THE EVIDENCE THAT SOME SOLDIERS WERE  
CARRYING FIREARMS AND THAT A LARGER NUMBER POSSESSED

PAGE NO. 4

UNCLASSIFIED

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THE FLEXIBLE METAL RODS, WHICH MOST PEOPLE SEEM CONVINCED WERE TO BE USED FOR PULLING PEOPLE BY THE NECK. MANY PEOPLE WHO APPROACHED US ON THE STREET SEEMED TO PROFESS A GENUINE DISILLUSIONMENT THAT THE SOLDIERS HAD AFTER ALL COME PREPARED TO USE VIOLENCE. WITH THE UNSEEMLY RETREAT, THE CITIZENS' ANGER TOWARDS THE MILITARY (AND THE AUTHORITIES BEHIND THEM) NOW IS MIXED WITH RIDICULE AND CONTEMPT. ONE MAN COMMENTED TO US ON THE STREET AT 0700 THAT ONE SHOULD NOT BE SURPRISED AT THE NIGHT'S EVENTS SINCE THROUGHOUT CHINESE HISTORY, WHENEVER RULERS HAVE NO SOLUTION FOR PROBLEMS WHICH THEY THEMSELVES HAVE CREATED, "THEY DO VERY POOLISH THINGS." OF COURSE THERE ARE OTHER EXPLANATIONS WHICH WE CAN NEITHER PROVE NOR DISCARD AT THIS POINT: THAT IT WAS A PLAN WHICH THE EXECUTORS KNEW WOULD FAIL, BUT INTENDED EITHER TO PROVE THAT MUCH STRONGER FORCE WILL BE NECESSARY TO REGAIN CONTROL OR, ALTERNATIVELY, TO DEMONSTRATE THAT ANY MILITARY SOLUTION WILL BE COUNTERED BY THE POPULACE. END COMMENT.

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